DC
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
566
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YA MADE A BAD MISTAKE CONJURIN' UP THIS SWAB TO FIGHT ME, WITCHY--
--'CAUSE IF THERE'S ONE GUY WHAT CAN LICK HIM, IT'S CAPTAIN STRONG!
DC
WHERE LEGENDS LIVE!
ROGERS and ORDWAY

THE CAST:
I CAN GET THIS SCOOP WITHOUT SUPERMAN'S HELP!
LOIS LANE
ER--EXCUSE ME! MY STOMACH IS FEELING A BIT QUEASY!
CLARK KENT
THAT'S MY MAN!
OLIVIA STRONG
I WONDER WHAT FATE HOLDETH IN STORE FOR ME THIS DAY!
J. WELLINGTON JONES
I HAVE WAYS OF DEALING WITH TRESPASSERS!
THE OLD LADY OF THE SEA
ARF! ARF!
THE MYSTERY SCOUNDREL
SUPERMAN
CO-STARRING
CAPTAIN STRONG
THE CREW:
CRAIG BOLDMAN story
RON RANDALL pencils
KARL KESEL inks
BEN ODA letters
GENE D'ANGELO colors
JULIUS SCHWARTZ editor
AN ISLAND PARADISE--AN ANTIQUE SAILING VESSEL--A TERRIFYING SEA MONSTER--AN ANCIENT LEGEND COME TO LIFE! THESE ELEMENTS AND MORE COME TOGETHER TO TURN A CAREFREE VACATION CRUISE INTO AN ORDEAL WHICH, FOR THE MAN OF STEEL AND THE MIGHTY MARINER, COULD CAUSE...
"TRAUMAS IN THE BAHAMAS!"

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KINGSWOOD - DCP
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Communications Company

THANKS FOR THE LIFT TO THE AIRPORT, JIMMY!
NO PROBLEM, CLARK! MAYBE SOME OF YOUR LUCK WILL RUB OFF ON ME!
ONLY YOU AND LOIS COULD GET A TELEGRAM FROM AN OLD SAILOR FRIEND -- INVITING YOU TO A FREE PLEASURE CRUISE OF THE BAHAMAS!
WELL, CAPTAIN STRONG IS SOMEWHAT UNPREDICTABLE...
AND I DO MEAN UNPREDICTABLE! STRONG ONCE EVEN GAVE ME A RUN FOR MY MONEY AS SUPERMAN!
HE'D SWALLOWED AN ALIEN SEAWEED CALLED SAUNCHA WHICH MULTIPLIED HIS STRENGTH-- ONLY TO HAVE AN OVERDOSE TEMPORARILY COST HIM HIS SELF-CONTROL!*
*ACTION COMICS #421... June
SHORTLY, ON THE ISLAND OF NASSAU...
OH, WOW! THE FANTASIA! THIS IS OUR CRUISE SHIP?
IT'S A REFURBISHED SAILING SCHOONER FROM THE EARLY 1900'S! IT WILL BE HER MAIDEN VOYAGE AS A PLEASURE CRUISER!
CLARK, I RECOGNIZE THE PASSENGER AHEAD OF US! IT'S J. WELLINGTON JONES!
YES, ONE OF THE JONESES! HIS LATE FATHER, CAPTAIN WYNNE JONES, PURCHASED THE FANTASIA IN 1950!
2

MR. KENT! MIZZ LANE! WELCOME ABOARD, ME FRIENDS! YOU REMEMBERS ME SWEET PATOOTIE OLIVIA, DON'T YA?
OF COURSE! WE WERE SURPRISED TO GET YOUR WIRE, CAPTAIN! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL LIVING IN METROPOLIS!
STILL DO! BUT WHEN I HEARD THAT RICH JONES SWAB WAS TAKING THE FANTASIA OUT OF MOTHBALLS, I WRANGLED AN INVITE TO PILOT ITS FIRST RUN!
CONFIDENSHIKALLY-- I KNOWS A FEW SECRETS ABOUT THIS SHIP! YOU MIGHT JUST COME AWAY WITH A BIG STORY FOR YOUR NEWS SHOW!
UH-OH! THAT GLEAM IN THE CAPTAIN'S EYE GIVES ME A BAD FEELING!
SOON, AS THE FANTASIA SETS SAIL...
YES, MY CHARMING MISS LANE, I INHERITED THIS SPLENDID SAILING VESSEL FROM MY DEAR DEPARTED FATHER, CAPTAIN WHANE...
HE HAD RESTORED MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL WOODWORK AND ORNAMENTATION, WHICH, I WAS SWIFTLY TO RECOGNIZE, GREATLY ENHANCED ITS APPEAL AS A TOURIST SHIP! OBSERVE THIS MAGNIFICENTLY DETAILED DECK TABLE...
YAWN!: THE IDLE RICH...
MEANWHILE...
CAN'T WEAR MY COSTUME UNDER THIS OUTFIT! THE SEA LOOKS SO PEACEFUL ...SURELY I CAN LEAVE MY "DRESS BLUES" PACKED AWAY FOR ONCE...?
BAD MOVE, CLARK!
3

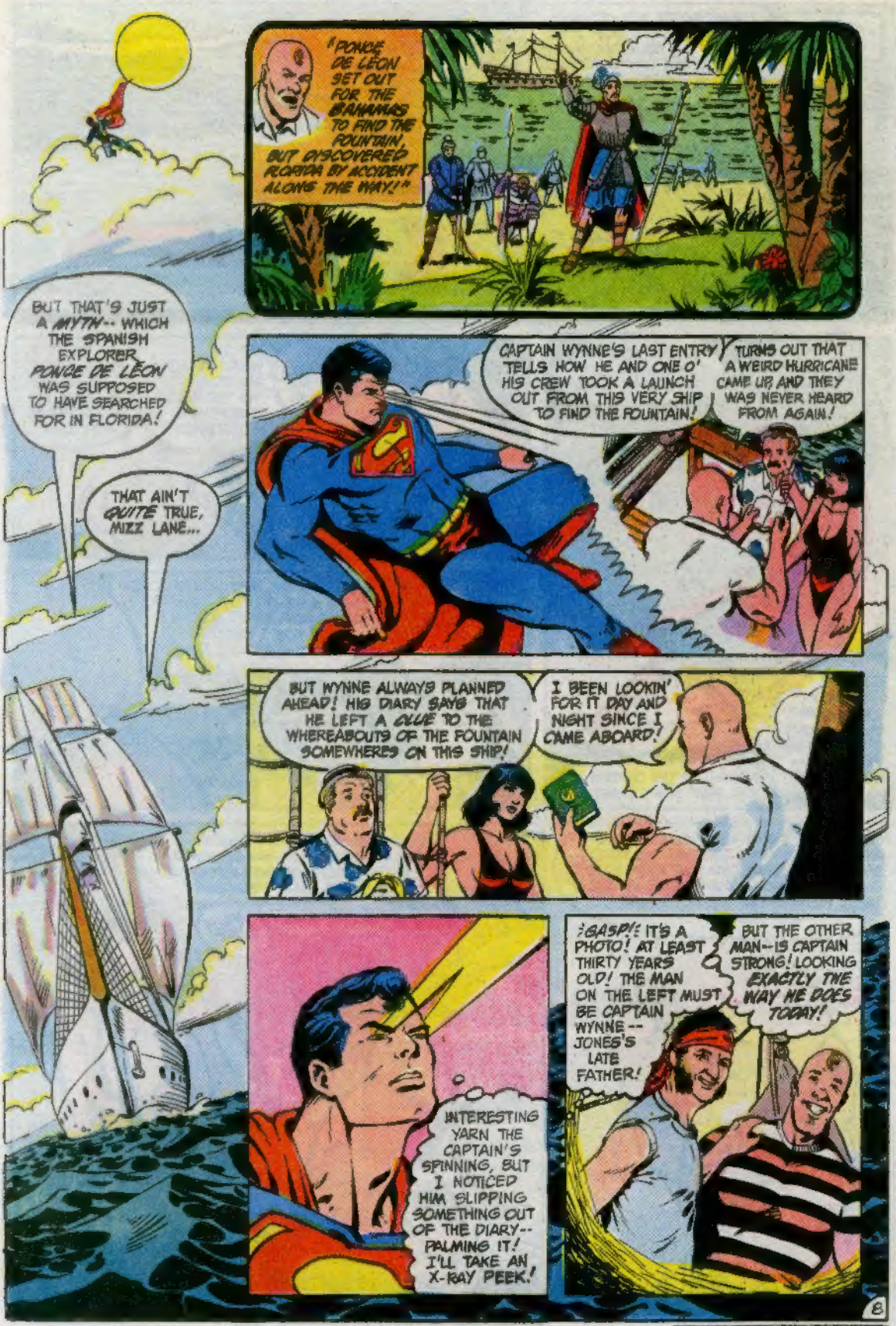
BERMUDA SHORTS, CLARK? PRETTY SNAPPY! BETTER WATCH OUT FOR THE WOMEN!
HELLO AGAIN, YOU TWO!
HI, OLIVIA! DOES YOUR SEAFARING HUSBAND STILL STAY PREPARED FOR "EMERGENCIES"?
IF YOU MEAN, "DOES HE STILL CARRY A POUCH OF SAUNCHA WITH HIM"--ABSOLUTELY NOT!
I MADE HIM GIVE UP THAT AWFUL HABIT WHEN I FOUND OUT WHAT A TERRIBLE SHOW-OFF IT TURNS HIM INTO!
NOW YOU SEE'S WHO'S THE REAL CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP!
A NEARBY BAHAMA ISLAND...
I'LL BE A BLARSTED SEA-MONKEY'S UNCLE IF THAT AIN'T THE FANTASIA OUT THERE! HOW'D THAT TUB FIND ITS WAY BACK TO THE OPEN SEA?
SEEMS TO BE ON A PLEASURE CRUISE!
WELL, IT AIN'T NO PLEASURE FOR ME! I GOT BAD RECOLLECTIONS O' THAT SCOW, AND I SMELLS TROUBLE COMIN' FROM ITS DIRECTION! WHYNCHA SINK 'EM FOR ME, WITCHIE?
HEE! HEE! I LOVE IT WHEN YOU GET RILED! I'LL SEND ONE OF MY PETS TO GREET THEM!
AND, ON THE OCEAN FLOOR A SLEEPING GIANT STIRS...
WE'RE APPROACHING THE ISLAND OF ANDROS! I'M GOING PORTSIDE TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!
HAVE FUN!
OH, HE WILL, LOIS...
4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

...PROVIDING CLARK'S IDEA OF FUN IS TO WRESTLE WITH A GIANT STINGRAY!
HELP!
...BECAUSE IT SEEMS THAT THIS JOB FOR SUPERMAN HAS JUST FALLEN ON CLARK KENT'S SHOULDERS!
THIS WAVE SHOULD COVER ME AS I GO OVERBOARD...
GREAT SCOTT! THIS'LL TEACH ME TO LEAVE THE SUPER-SUIT IN DRY DOCK...
...AND BEFORE ANYONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED, I'LL HAVE MOPPED UP THE OCEAN FLOOR WITH THIS WEIRD FISHY!
SORRY, PAL! YOU'RE WASTING YOUR STINGER ON MY SUPER-TOUGH SKIN!
NOW IF LUCK WAS WITH ME -- BLAST! IT WASN'T! CAPTAIN STRONG WITNESSED MY WHOLE 'PERFORMANCE'!
THAT BLOWS MY COVER-- UNLESS--
OF COURSE! THERE'S ONE EXPLANATION THE CAPTAIN WILL HAVE TO BELIEVE!
AN INVISIBLE SUPER-SPEED TRIP TO THE GALLEY...
...FOR THIS CASE OF CANNED SPINACH! IT SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
GALLEY
SPINACH
5

CLARK! YOU SAVED US?!
AND NOW YOU'RE FLYING OUT OF THE WATER LIKE SUPERMAN!?
GRAB THIS, KENT!
I'M OKAY, CAPTAIN--
Fantasy
--THOUGH I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY! I SEEM TO HAVE THE STRENGTH OF TWENTY MEN! IN MY PANIC I KNOCKED THAT MONSTER OUT!
LISSEN, KENT! THAT SEAWEED WHAT COVERS YA-- DID YA SWALLOW ANY OF IT DOWN BELOW?
I--ER, GUESS SO. WHY?..
IT DON'T LOOK LIKE THE STUFF I REMEMBERS, BUT-- IT'S GOTTA BE SAUNCHA! THAT'S WHAT MADE YOU SO STRONG!
WHEN THIS STUFF WEARS OFF, I'LL LEAVE A LUBBER LIKE YOU WEAK AS A JELLYFISH! BETTER GO SLEEP IT OFF!
I'M GETTIN' AN EERIE PREMONISHKIN ABOUT THIS CRUISE! IF THERE'S ANY MORE STRONG-MAN STUFF TO BE DONE, I'M THE SWAB WHAT'S GONNA DO IT!
HAUL IN THE REST A' THAT SAUNCHA, MATES!
SO...
THAT MAN OF MINE! WHAT DID I SAY ABOUT HIS BEING A SHOW-OFF?
NOW, OLIVIA, HE'S JUST GETTING US TO SAFE WATERS THE FASTEST WAY HE KNOWS HOW...
"...SAUNCHA POWER!"
KUK
KUK
KUK
6

AND, DOWN BELOW...
I MUST AGREE WITH OLIVIA-- ESPECIALLY SINCE NOW I'LL HAVE TO DO THE WORK WHENEVER THE CAPTAIN WANTS TO PULL A SAUMCHA-STUNT!
THE THINGS I DO TO PROTECT MY SECRET IDENTITY!
JUST A SLIGHT TECHNICAL DIFFICULKY, FOLKS!
MOST SEA CREATURES ...EVEN GIANT ONES...WON'T ATTACK UNLESS PROVOKED-- OR TRAINED!
PERHAPS THE CAPTAIN CAN SHED SOME LIGHT...
LOOKS LIKE LOIS READ MY MIND.
CAPTAIN, THAT WEIRD ATTACK! ANY CONNECTION TO THE "NEWS STORY" YOU HINTED ABOUT?
YOU KNOWS I HELPS OUT AT THE MARINE MUSEUM IN METROPOLIS, MIZZ LANE...
A WHILE BACK, THIS YOUNG JONES SWAB GAVE A LOTTA HIS LATE PAPA'S GEAR TO THE MUSEUM! THAT'S HOW I DISCOVERED CAPTAIN WYNNE'S DIARY!
SEEMS THAT, FROM TALKIN' TO OLD SALTS AND ISLAND NATIVES THROUGH THE YEARS, WYNNE WAS CONVINCED THAT HE'D FIGURED OUT THE LOCATION -- RIGHT HERE ON ONE O' THESE ISLANDS -- O' THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH!
YOU MEAN -- THE MAGICAL FOUNTAIN THAT WAS BELIEVED TO MALT -- OR EVEN REVERSE -- THE AGING PROCESS?
THE VERY SAME!
MY WORD!
7


"PONCE DE LEON SET OUT FOR THE BAHAMAS TO FIND THE FOUNTAIN, BUT DISCOVERED FLORIDA BY ACCIDENT ALONG THE WAY!"
BUT THAT'S JUST A MYTH-- WHICH THE SPANISH EXPLORER PONCE DE LEON WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SEARCHED FOR IN FLORIDA!
THAT AIN'T QUITE TRUE, MIZZ LANE...
CAPTAIN WYNNE'S LAST ENTRY TELLS HOW HE AND ONE O' HIS CREW TOOK A LAUNCH OUT FROM THIS VERY SHIP TO FIND THE FOUNTAIN!
TURNS OUT THAT A WEIRD HURRICANE CAME UP AND THEY WAS NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN!
BUT WYNNE ALWAYS PLANNED AHEAD! HIS DIARY SAYS THAT HE LEFT A CLUE TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE FOUNTAIN SOMEWHERES ON THIS SHIP!
I BEEN LOOKIN' FOR IT DAY AND NIGHT SINCE I CAME ABOARD!
INTERESTING YARN THE CAPTAIN'S SPINNING, BUT I NOTICED HIM SLIPPING SOMETHING OUT OF THE DIARY-- PALMING IT! I'LL TAKE AN X-RAY PEEK!
GASP! IT'S A PHOTO! AT LEAST THIRTY YEARS OLD! THE MAN ON THE LEFT MUST BE CAPTAIN WYNNE-- JONES'S LATE FATHER!
BUT THE OTHER MAN--IS CAPTAIN STRONG! LOOKING EXACTLY THE WAY HE DOES TODAY!
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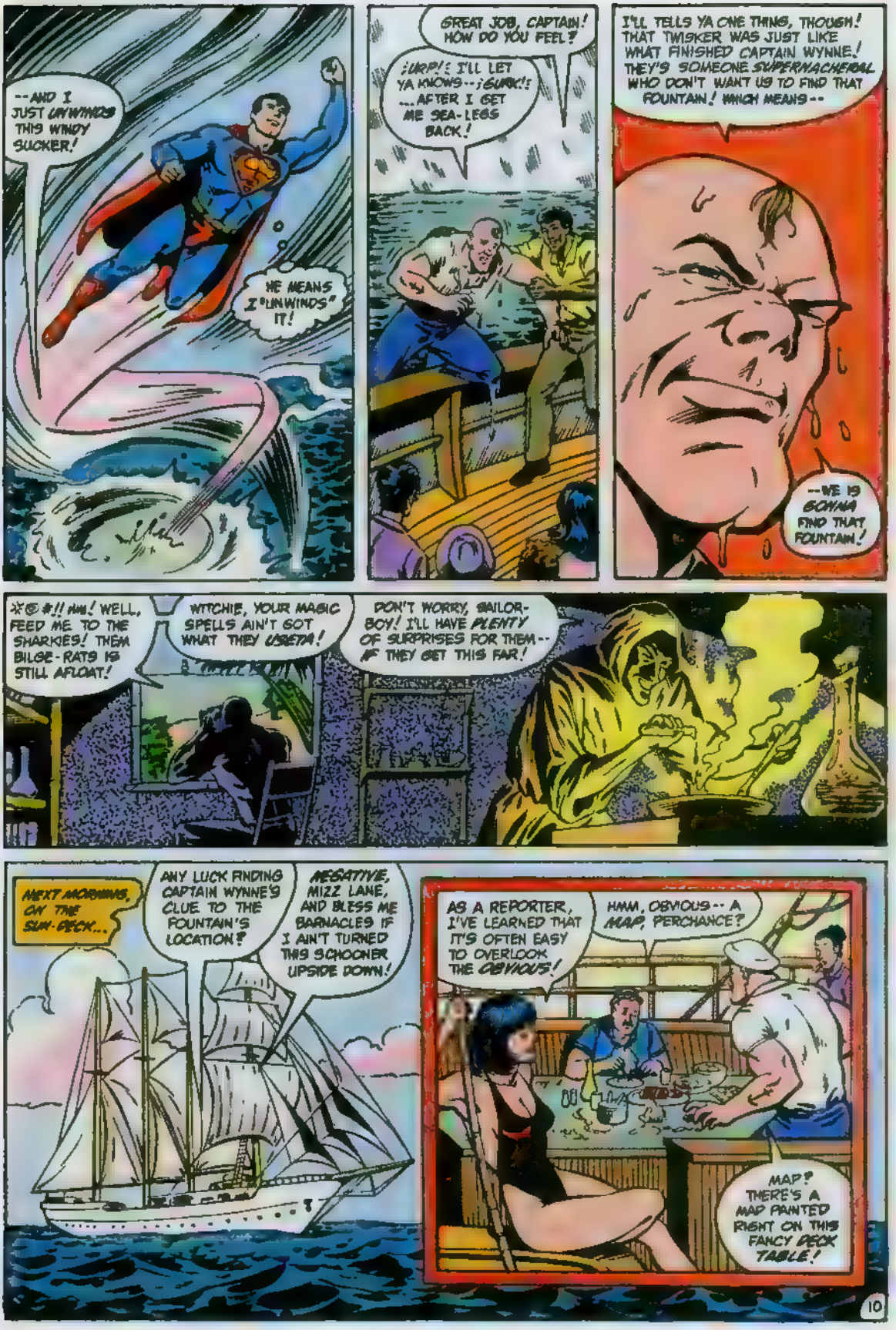
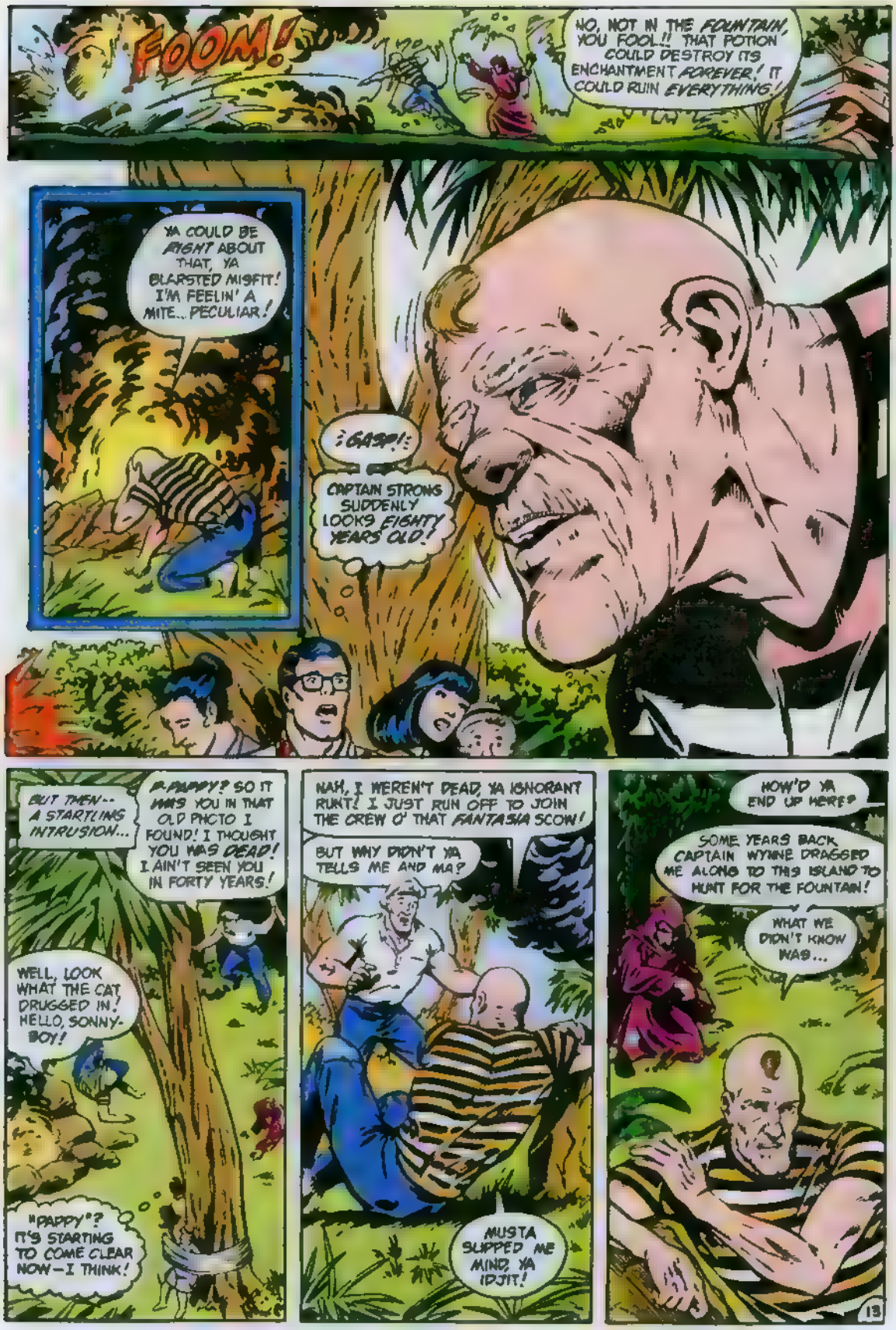
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

IT SEEMS THERE'S MORE TO CAPTAIN STRONG THAN MEETS THE EYE!
WHAT'S HE HIDING? WHAT'S HIS CONNECTION WITH THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH?
WELL, THAT'S A MYSTERY FOR LATER! BECAUSE RIGHT NOW-- IT LOOKS LIKE WHOEVER OWNS THAT STINGRAY... ALSO DABBLES IN WEATHER!
A HURRICANE! THAT DOES IT! NEXT TIME I TAKE A CRUISE, IT'LL BE BY BUS!
LET'S SEE-- I WANT TO KEEP OUT OF SIGHT...
UH-OH! THE CAPTAIN'S GETTING INTO THE ACT!
'SCUSE ME, MIZZ LANE! THAT AIN'T NO NATURAL STORM BREWING -- BUT IT AIN'T NOTHING CAPTAIN STRONG CAN'T HANDLE, NEITHER!
I'VE HEARD TELL OF ME FRIEND SUPERMAN PULLIN' STUNTS LIKE THIS BEFORE!
I JUST LEAPS OUT TO THE CENTER OF THE THING...
WHOOOSH!
... COURTESY OF MY SUPER-BREATH!
... WHIRLS L-LIKE A D-D-DERVISH FOR A BIT-- IN THE OPPOSITE D-DIRECTION OF THIS LI'L C-CORKSCREW--
GOT TO HAND IT TO THE CAPTAIN! HE DOES HAVE INTESTINAL FORTITUDE!


--AND I JUST LAYWINDS THIS WINDY SUCKER!
HE MEANS I "LIN WINDS" IT!
GREAT JOB, CAPTAIN! HOW DO YOU FEEL?
¡URP!: I'LL LET YA KNOWS--¡GURK!: ...AFTER I GET ME SEA-LEGS BACK!
I'LL TELLS YA ONE THING, THOUGH! THAT TWISKER WAS JUST LIKE WHAT FINISHED CAPTAIN WYNNE! THEY'S SOMEONE SUPERNACHERAL WHO DON'T WANT US TO FIND THAT FOUNTAIN! WHICH MEANS--
--WE IS GONNA FIND THAT FOUNTAIN!
*©#!! HMM! WELL, FEED ME TO THE SHARKIES! THEM BILGE-RATS IS STILL AFLOAT!
WITCHIE, YOUR MAGIC SPELLS AIN'T GOT WHAT THEY USETA!
DON'T WORRY, SAILOR-BOY! I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF SURPRISES FOR THEM-- IF THEY GET THIS FAR!
NEXT MORNING, ON THE SUN-DECK...
ANY LUCK FINDING CAPTAIN WYNNE'S CLUE TO THE FOUNTAIN'S LOCATION?
NEGATIVE, MIZZ LANE, AND BLESS ME BARNACLES IF I AIN'T TURNED THIS SCHOONER UPSIDE DOWN!
AS A REPORTER, I'VE LEARNED THAT IT'S OFTEN EASY TO OVERLOOK THE OBVIOUS!
HMM, OBVIOUS-- A MAP, PERCHANCE?
MAP? THERE'S A MAP PAINTED RIGHT ON THIS FANCY DECK TABLE!

AND AS THE CAPTAIN SWEEPS THE FOOD OFF THE TABLE...
LOOK! THERE'S AN IMPRINT OF THE CAPTAIN'S MONOGRAM RING MASHED INTO THE GRAIN OF THE WOOD--ALONGSIDE AN "X" SCRATCHED INTO A SPOT ON ANDROS ISLAND!
WE'RE SITTIN' RIGHT ON TOP OF IT!
ANDROS, EH? IT FIGURES! IT'S VERY LARGE, MOSTLY UNINHABITED... AND THE STRANGE EVENTS BEGAN WHEN WE APPROACHED IT!
BETTER GET TO MY CABIN! I KNOW WHAT'S COMING NEXT!
GET CLARK KENT! I WANT ME FRIENDS ALONG WHEN I MAKES ME GREAT DISCOVERY!
ATTENTION, MATES! LOWER ME DINGHY RIGHT AWAY!
DINGHY, CAPTAIN? WOULDN'T ONE OF THE MOTORIZED LAUNCHES BE BETTER THAN A ROWBOAT?
NOT WHEN THE ROWBOAT IS OPERATIN' ON -- SAUNCHA POWER!
;SNSH!; IF I WEREN'T HELPING THE DINGHY ALONG WITH MY FLYING POWER, HE'D SEE HOW FAR HIS "SAUNCHA" WOULD GET US!
THIS SHOULD BE THE SPOT! WHILE YOU SWABS STICK TOGETHER, I'LL TAKES A PEEK IN THIS DIRECTION!
I DON'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT THIS...
WE COULD BE ON THIS CRAZY TREASURE HUNT FOR DAYS!
PERHAPS NOT, MISS LANE! I DETECT THE SOUND OF RUNNING WATER...
SO MANY WEIRD THINGS HAPPENING...

A NATURAL SPRING--NEXT TO THAT HUT! COULD IT BE--?
I'M HALF-EXPECTING SOMETHING HORRIBLE TO SNEAK UP BEHIND US!
W-WHOA! OOOOOH!
OLIVIA?
SHE'S FAINTED!
ALL RIGHT, YE BLARSTED BARNACLES! YE'VE COME TOO FAR!
THE GROUP STARES IN DISBELIEF, AS...
STRONG!
YE KNOWS ME NAME, ALL RIGHT! YE KNOWS TOO @#&%!! MUCH! FAT LOTTA GOOD IT'LL DO YE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
YE FOUND WHAT YE CAME FOR! THIS IS THE BLARSTED FOUNTAIN O' YOUTH! BUT IT BELONGS TO ME AND MITCHIE, HERE!
PUT THAT SILLY GUN DOWN, SAILOR-BOY! IT AIN'T WORKED IN YEARS!
I'VE BETTER WAYS OF DEALING WITH TRESPASSERS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT VILE-LOOKING POTION DOES, BUT IF SHE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR TROUBLES...
...A FLASH OF HEAT VISION MAY BE IN ORDER!
FOOSH!
WHAT--? NO! THIS SHOULDN'T BE HAPPENING!
THOSE ☆@✲■! MAGICAL POTIONS O' YOURS ARE GONNA KILL US ALL! I'LL FIX IT!
12


FOOM!
NO, NOT IN THE FOUNTAIN, YOU FOOL!! THAT POTION COULD DESTROY ITS ENCHANTMENT FOREVER! IT COULD RUIN EVERYTHING!
YA COULD BE RIGHT ABOUT THAT, YA BLARSTED MISFIT! I'M FEELIN' A MITE... PECULIAR!
:GASP!:
CAPTAIN STRONG SUDDENly LOOKS EIGHTY YEARS OLD!
BUT THEN-- A STARTLING INTRUSION...
P-PAPPY? SO IT WAS YOU IN THAT OLD PHOTO I FOUND! I THOUGHT YOU WAS DEAD! I AIN'T SEEN YOU IN FORTY YEARS!
WELL, LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRUGGED IN! HELLO, SONNY-BOY!
"PAPPY"? IT'S STARTING TO COME CLEAR NOW--I THINK!
NAH, I WEREN'T DEAD, YA IGNORANT RUNT! I JUST RUN OFF TO JOIN THE CREW O' THAT FANTASIA SCOW!
BUT WHY DIDN'T YA TELLS ME AND MA?
MUSTA SLIPPED ME MIND, YA IDJIT!
HOW'D YA END UP HERE?
SOME YEARS BACK, CAPTAIN WYNNE DRAGGED ME ALONG TO THIS ISLAND TO HUNT FOR THE FOUNTAIN!
WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW WAS...
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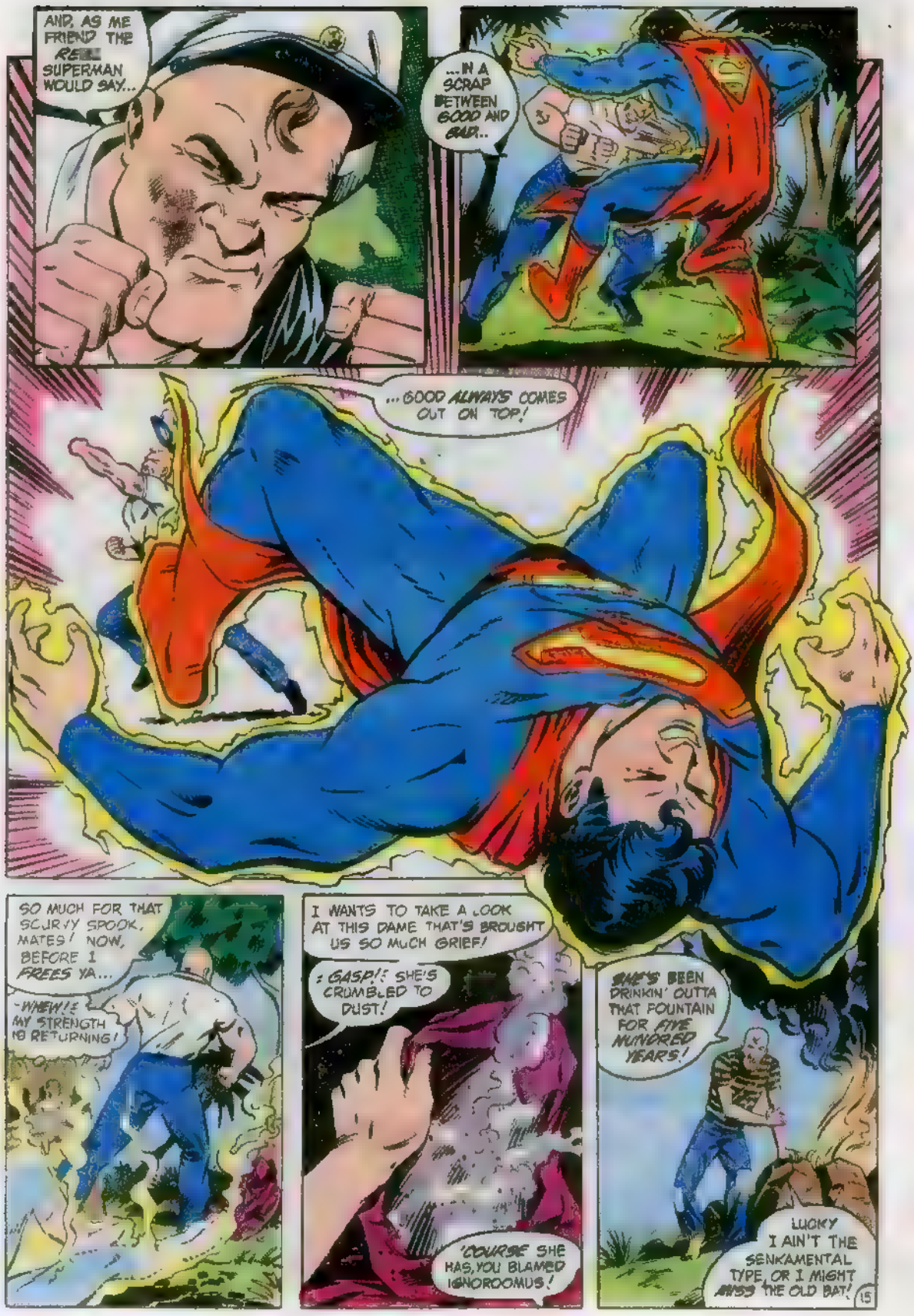
"... WITCHY HERE'D ALREADY STAKED A CLAIM ON THAT PARTICULAR FOUNTAIN! DIDN'T APPRECIATE US COMING AROUND! SHE SENT A STORM TO SCUTTLE OUR BOAT!
"THE CAPTAIN WENT DOWN! I MADE IT TO SHORE!"
WITCHY THOUGHT I WAS SORTA CUTE! BEEN HERE EVER SINCE, JUST KEEPIN' THE FOUNTAIN TO OURSELVES AND KEEPIN' OUTTA TROUBLE!
TILL YOU SPOILED EVERYTHING!
BUT IF THIS BE THE END... I'M TAKIN' ALL O' YOU WITH ME!
ONE LAST ENCHANTMENT! I'M PLUCKIN' THE MOST POWERFUL THING YOU KNOW OUT OF YOUR MEMORIES -- AND USING IT AGAINST YOU!
;UNH!: A WAVE OF WEAKNESS OVERCOMING ME! AND NO WONDER! SHE'S CREATED A SUPERMAN-WRAITH! IT MUST BE TAPPING MY STRENGTH!
YER SUPER-SPIRIT DON'T SCARE ME NONE, HAGGY! HE MAY GOT SUPER-POWER -- BUT I GOT SAUNCHA-POWER!
OH, NO! I CAN'T HELP THE CAPTAIN BEHIND THE SCENES THIS TIME! HE'S IN TROUBLE!
BUT, AMAZINGLY...
'COURSE, EVEN IF I DIDN'T HAVE ME SAUNCHA-POWER, I'D STILL WIN THIS LI'L SCUFFLE --
--'CAUSE THIS PHONY SUPER-SWAB IS FIGHTIN' ON THE SIDE OF EVIL!
I'M FIGHTIN' FOR GOOD!
14


AND, AS ME FRIEND THE REAL SUPERMAN WOULD SAY...
...IN A SCRAP BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL...
...GOOD ALWAYS COMES OUT ON TOP!
SO MUCH FOR THAT SCURVY SPOOK, MATES! NOW, BEFORE I FREES YA...
-WHEW!- MY STRENGTH IS RETURNING!
I WANTS TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS DAME THAT'S BROUGHT US SO MUCH GRIEF!
-GASP!- SHE'S CRUMBLED TO DUST!
'COURSE SHE HAS, YOU BLAMED IGNOROOMUS!
SHE'S BEEN DRINKIN' OUTTA THAT FOUNTAIN FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS!
LUCKY I AIN'T THE SENKAMENTAL TYPE, OR I MIGHT MISS THE OLD BAT!
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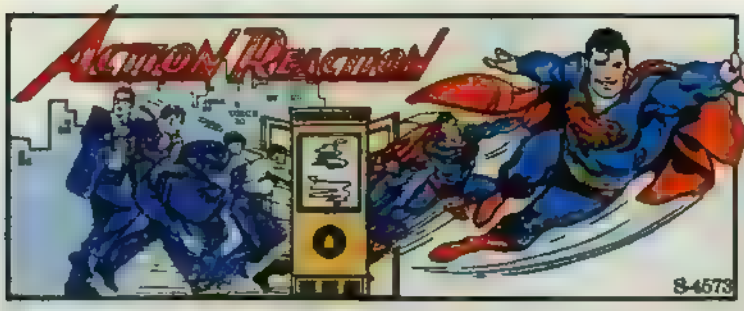
HMM! GUESS I'LL NEVER KNOW IF CAPTAIN STRONG WON HIS BATTLE BECAUSE THE OLD ENCHANTRESS WAS DYING...
...OR BECAUSE -- AS THE CAPTAIN SAID -- HE WAS FIGHTING FOR THE SIDE OF GOOD!
WELL, THE FOUNTAIN'S GONE, BUT I DID FIND ME PAPPY!
GET YER GEAR, MATEY! YER COMIN' TO METROPOLIS SO'S I CAN TEACHES YA HOW TO ACTS LIKE AN OLD GEEZER!
*GASP!
LATER, AS THE FANTASIA RESUMES ITS JOURNEY...
AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, THE REST OF THIS CRUISE WILL BE AN ANTICLIMAX -- HOPEFULLY!
YOUR FRIEND CLARK AND MY HUSBAND HORATIO ARE QUITE A PAIR!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT, OLIVIA!
IMAGINE CLARK KENT SAVING US FROM A SEA MONSTER! AND THE CAPTAIN BEATING A SUPERMAN CLONE IN A FIST FIGHT!
WHAT CAN YOU EVEN SAY ABOUT A COUPLE OF UNPREDICTABLE GUYS LIKE THAT?
ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN SAY, LOIS...
... THEY ARE WHAT THEY ARE!
NEXT ISSUE: "PERIL(S) IN PARADISE" AND
ON SALE FEB. 28TH! IT'S A DATE!
THE END



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Hi, Bob:

This issue's letter column said it, but I'm gonna say it again anyway: This issue of *ACTION* was just plain fun! One of the main reasons was *Queen Bee*. I think she is an excellent villainess, because she epitomizes selfishness, and she always has some strange scheme to accomplish her goals. She's got to have immortality, and when that proves to have side effects she's got to have a cure no matter what the cost, even if it means a match with the *Planeteer* that's not quite made in heaven! She's been powerful enough to face the *JLA* in the past, and after this battle with *Superman*, I'd love to see her take on *Wonder Woman* again!

Kurt Schaffenberger was perfect in keeping with the spirit of the story, from the opening page with everyone stuck to metal, to the bizarre effect of the human-looking energy-bees stinging Zazzala's arm, to the final battle in the beehive!

Touches like the ungrateful "rescuee" added to the story. I also enjoyed the little "asides" like Perry playing hero and cuddling his wife. It's great to see them in love again. Lois and Justin's "date" was a riot. It's apparent she's regretting breaking up with *Superman*. Along with Clark and Lana, it was nice to see the *Daily Planet/Galaxy* staff out of the office for a change.

Thanks for putting some great entertainment into my day! Keep the good stuff coming!

NEIL AHLQUIST
Minneapolis, MN

Julie's got quite a contingent of writers working for him these days, Neil, and we're all doing our best to keep the good stuff coming.—BR

•••••

Dear Editor (and Bob):

I've always had a certain fondness for Zazzala, the *Queen Bee*. In some ways a fearsome character, symbolizing the mindless precision and power of the beehive, she is really almost goofy, so purely self-centered, so predictable in her ways. A more recent, and more goofy, villain is the so-called King Alexander. He is so far out it is hard to take him seriously. But they are both supremely confident and supremely egotistical villains that they were almost made for each other and thus their team-up in #562 was fairly enjoyable. It's nice to see a couple of "allies" plotting the downfall of the other while smiling sweetly. The *Queen Bee*'s magnetic menace had that old-time feel you say you are striving for. It's almost scientifically believable and operates in a somewhat rational way but is, at base, an absurdity.

And, speaking of your desire to return to the more traditional type of *Superman* story, you must do something about Clark Kent while you're at it. Just look at him! He is a well-respected and popular newscaster and on the side he is a solid and admired newspaper reporter. In addition, he has a wonderful relationship with his steady lady friend, Lana Lang, herself a beautiful and intelligent person. Why, Steve Lombard isn't even around to kick dirt in Clark's face! (In fact, these days Steve is more the butt of abuse than the perpetrator of it.) Clark has an almost ideal life. Whatever happened to the bumbler, the outcast, the person who elicited little more than sympathy (if that) in others? I think that part of the appeal of the "old" *Superman* was that the reader could identify with Clark Kent—who among us does not feel downtrodden at least on occasion? And just that we all knew that we were fine people if just others would realize it, we say that Clark was much greater (as *Superman*) than he could ever let on. Also, the sheer "nobility" of the suffering Clark went through for *Superman*'s sake (to protect his secret ID) made him admirable. Now the average reader must see even Clark as a terribly fortunate person and *Superman* as a man with no downside to his life.

T.M. MAPLE
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, ONT Canada M9P2R9

The Man of Steel has certainly had some downsides in his life, T.M., and, in fact, there's a major upset coming in his life very soon. So let's allow Clark (and Supes) to enjoy these good times while he can!—BR

•••••

Dear Editor:

The return of the *Queen Bee* was what "attracted" me to issue #562 of ACTION. It seems that the *Bee* and the *Planeteer* make good partners in crime. The Magnetic Duo should be married and follow in the footsteps of the *Sportsmaster* and the *Huntress*. I thought the scene with the lady complaining about *Superman* ruining her purse was hilarious! That lady should have a mini-series of her own!

It was good to see Lana and Clark still getting along, as well as the Whites! Josh Coyle even managed to get through four panels without an ulcer pill! The story and art? Let's just say I had a positive "reaction" to it!

RICK (LA) STEEL
Cleveland, OH

•••••

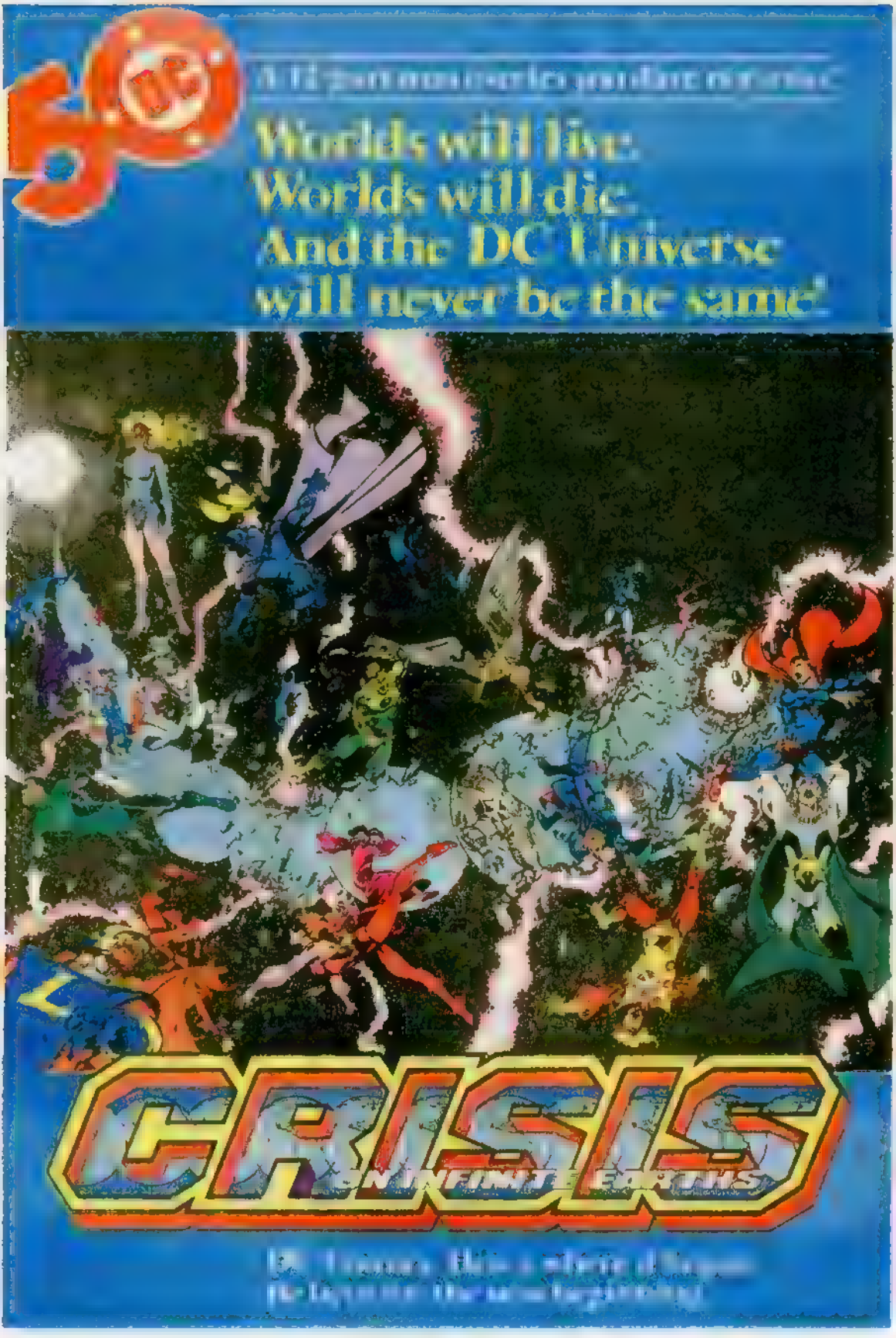
Dear Editor:

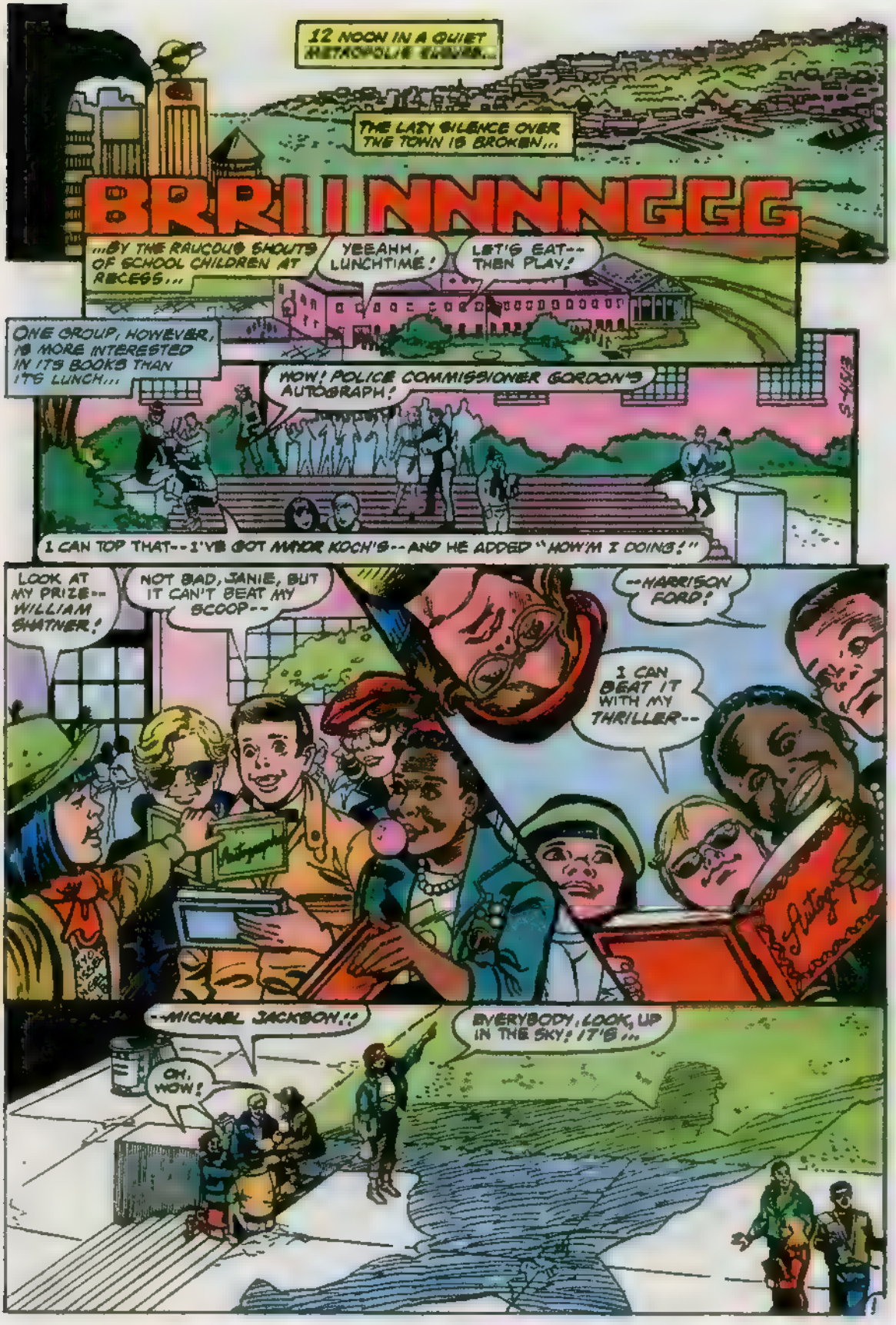
ACTION #562 was both a delight and a letdown. It looked as though Bob Rozakis had written two stories—one about "Damn Yankees" and the other about Alexander and the *Queen Bee*—but somebody figured the format ought to be varied now and then, so Bob had to weave the two stories into one. That was ok, but I liked "A Night at the Theater" better than "Their Magnetic Majesties." I think that Bob could have done a little more with the relationship between Alexander and the *Queen Bee*. Her parasitism and his bloated ego could have been made more intriguing in relationship to each other. But the delightful human touches like the outraged woman whose pocketbook *Superman* had torn in freeing her, and the old Perry charging after these purse thieves were both gems. I'm grateful and relieved to see the Whites back together. Take time to dwell more on their relationship. I want to see *SUPERMAN* and *ACTION* become more than monthly arenas for combat with one super-villain after another.

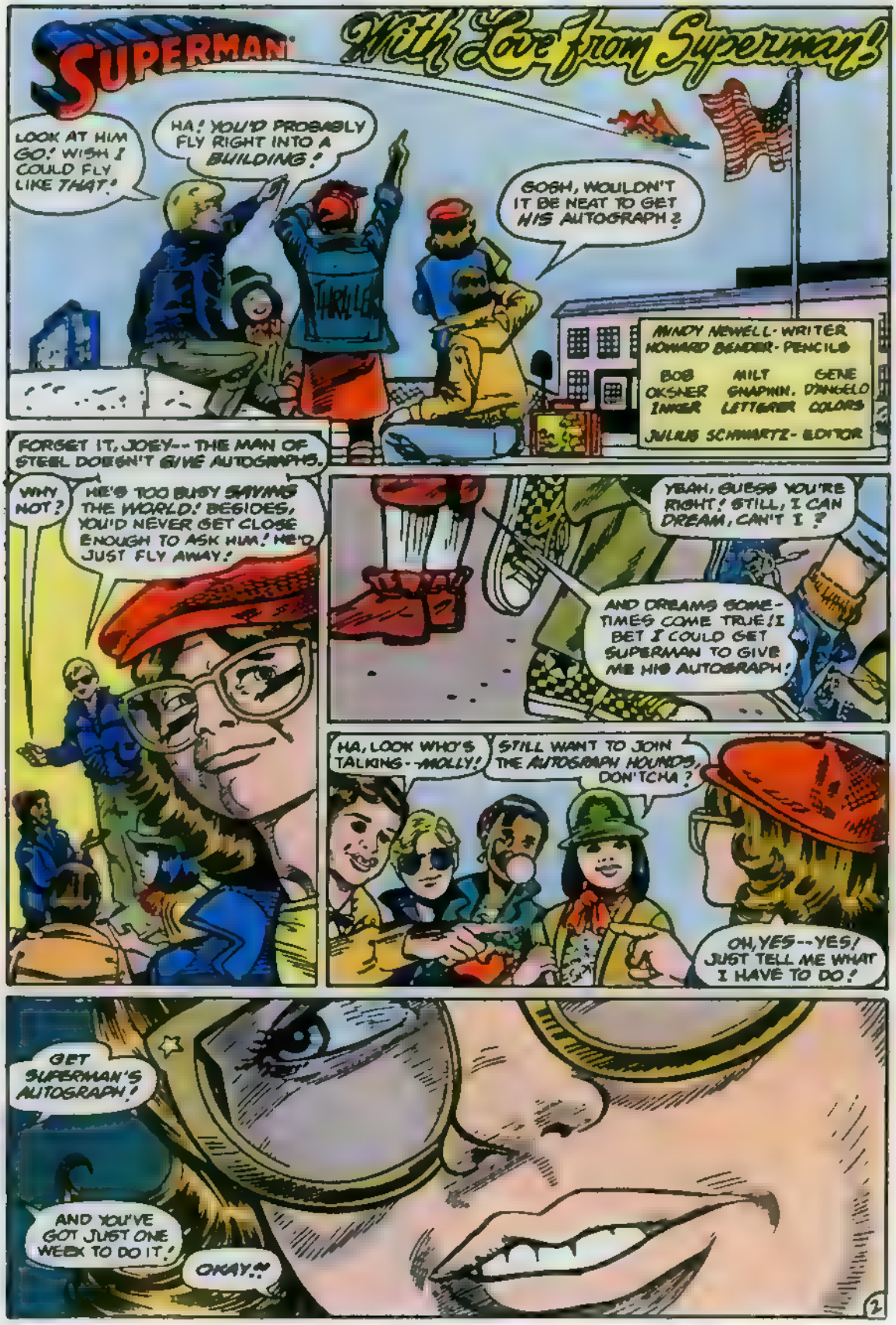
GARY D. ROBINSON
Box 146
Alvin, IL 61811

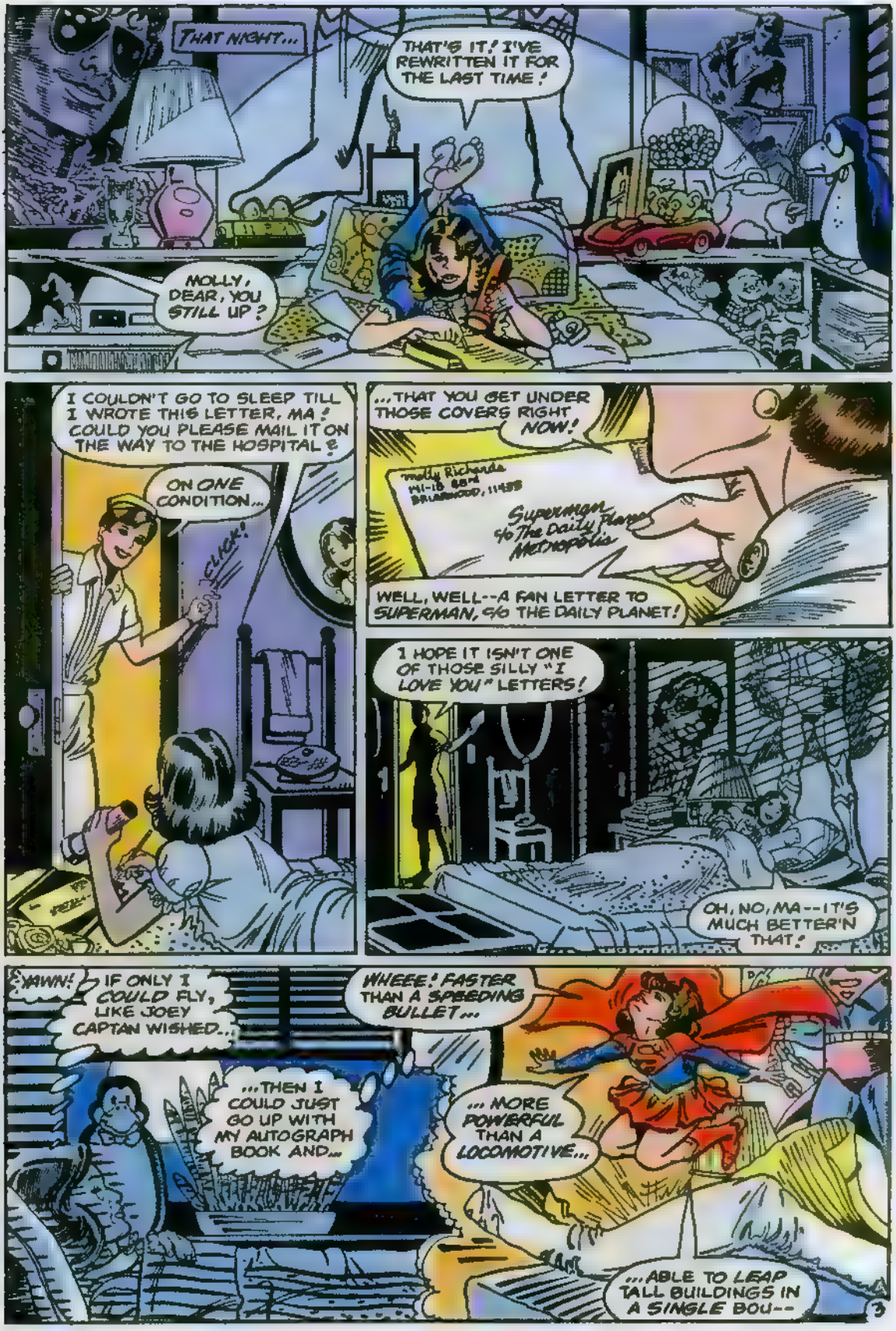
The story may feel like an interweaving of two separate tales, Gary, but it was a single 24-pager all along. The "Night at the Theater" subplot (and that's what it was intended to be all along) had the extra space to grow into and it appears that you readers enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

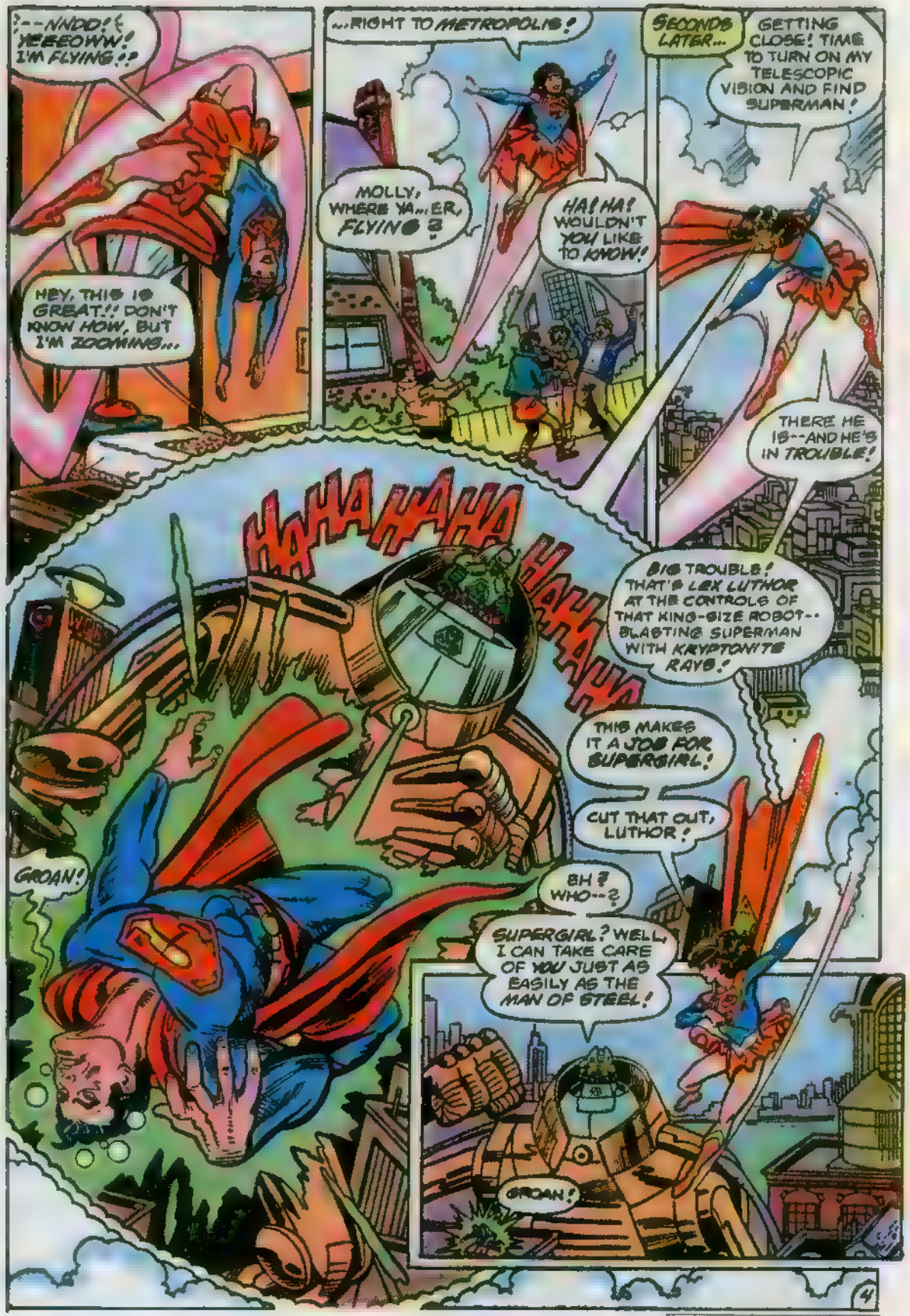
And on that note, we'll see you next issue. Till then, remember to "Look, up in the sky...!"—Bob Rozakis


DC
Worlds will live.
Worlds will die.
And the DC Universe
will never be the same.
CRISIS
ON INFINITE EARTHS


12 NOON IN A QUIET METROPOLIS TOWN...
THE LAZY SILENCE OVER THE TOWN IS BROKEN...
BRRIIINNNNGGG
...BY THE RAUCOUS SHOUTS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AT RECESS...
YEEAHH, LUNCHTIME!
LET'S EAT-- THEN PLAY!
ONE GROUP, HOWEVER, IS MORE INTERESTED IN ITS BOOKS THAN ITS LUNCH...
WOW! POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S AUTOGRAPH!
I CAN TOP THAT--I'VE GOT MAYOR KOCH'S--AND HE ADDED "HOW'M I DOING!"
LOOK AT MY PRIZE-- WILLIAM SHATNER!
NOT BAD, JANIE, BUT IT CAN'T BEAT MY SCOOP--
--HARRISON FORD!
I CAN BEAT IT WITH MY THRILLER--
--MICHAEL JACKSON!!
EVERYBODY, LOOK, UP IN THE SKY! IT'S...
OH, WOW!


SUPERMAN
With Love from Superman!
LOOK AT HIM GO! WISH I COULD FLY LIKE THAT!
HA! YOU'D PROBABLY FLY RIGHT INTO A BUILDING!
GOSH, WOULDN'T IT BE NEAT TO GET HIS AUTOGRAPH?
MINDY NEWELL - WRITER
HOWARD BENDER - PENCILS
BOB OKSNER INKER
MILT SNAPPIN. LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO COLORS
JULIUS SCHWARTZ - EDITOR
FORGET IT, JOEY-- THE MAN OF STEEL DOESN'T GIVE AUTOGRAPHS.
WHY NOT?
HE'S TOO BUSY SAVING THE WORLD! BESIDES, YOU'D NEVER GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO ASK HIM! HE'D JUST FLY AWAY!
YEAH, GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! STILL, I CAN DREAM, CAN'T I?
AND DREAMS SOMETIMES COME TRUE! I BET I COULD GET SUPERMAN TO GIVE ME HIS AUTOGRAPH!
HA, LOOK WHO'S TALKING - MOLLY!
STILL WANT TO JOIN THE AUTOGRAPH HOUNDS, DON'TCHA?
OH, YES--YES! JUST TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
GET SUPERMAN'S AUTOGRAPH!
AND YOU'VE GOT JUST ONE WEEK TO DO IT!
OKAY!!
2


THAT NIGHT...
THAT'S IT! I'VE REWRITTEN IT FOR THE LAST TIME!
MOLLY, DEAR, YOU STILL UP?
I COULDN'T GO TO SLEEP TILL I WROTE THIS LETTER, MA! COULD YOU PLEASE MAIL IT ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL?
ON ONE CONDITION...
CLICK!
...THAT YOU GET UNDER THOSE COVERS RIGHT NOW!
Molly Richards
Superman
c/o The Daily Planet
Metropolis
WELL, WELL--A FAN LETTER TO SUPERMAN, C/O THE DAILY PLANET!
I HOPE IT ISN'T ONE OF THOSE SILLY "I LOVE YOU" LETTERS!
OH, NO, MA--IT'S MUCH BETTER'N THAT!
YAWN!
IF ONLY I COULD FLY, LIKE JOEY CAPTAN WISHED...
...THEN I COULD JUST GO UP WITH MY AUTOGRAPH BOOK AND...
WHEEE! FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET...
...MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE...
...ABLE TO LEAP TALL BUILDINGS IN A SINGLE BOU--


:--NNOO!
YEEEOWW!
I'M FLYING!!
HEY, THIS IS GREAT!! DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I'M ZOOMING...
...RIGHT TO METROPOLIS!
MOLLY, WHERE YA...ER, FLYING?
HA! HA! WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW!
SECONDS LATER...
GETTING CLOSE! TIME TO TURN ON MY TELESCOPIC VISION AND FIND SUPERMAN!
THERE HE IS--AND HE'S IN TROUBLE!
BIG TROUBLE! THAT'S LEX LUTHOR AT THE CONTROLS OF THAT KING-SIZE ROBOT--BLASTING SUPERMAN WITH KRYPTONITE RAYS!
HAHA HAHA HAHA
THIS MAKES IT A JOB FOR SUPERGIRL!
CUT THAT OUT, LUTHOR!
EH? WHO--?
SUPERGIRL? WELL, I CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU JUST AS EASILY AS THE MAN OF STEEL!
GROAN!
GROAN!

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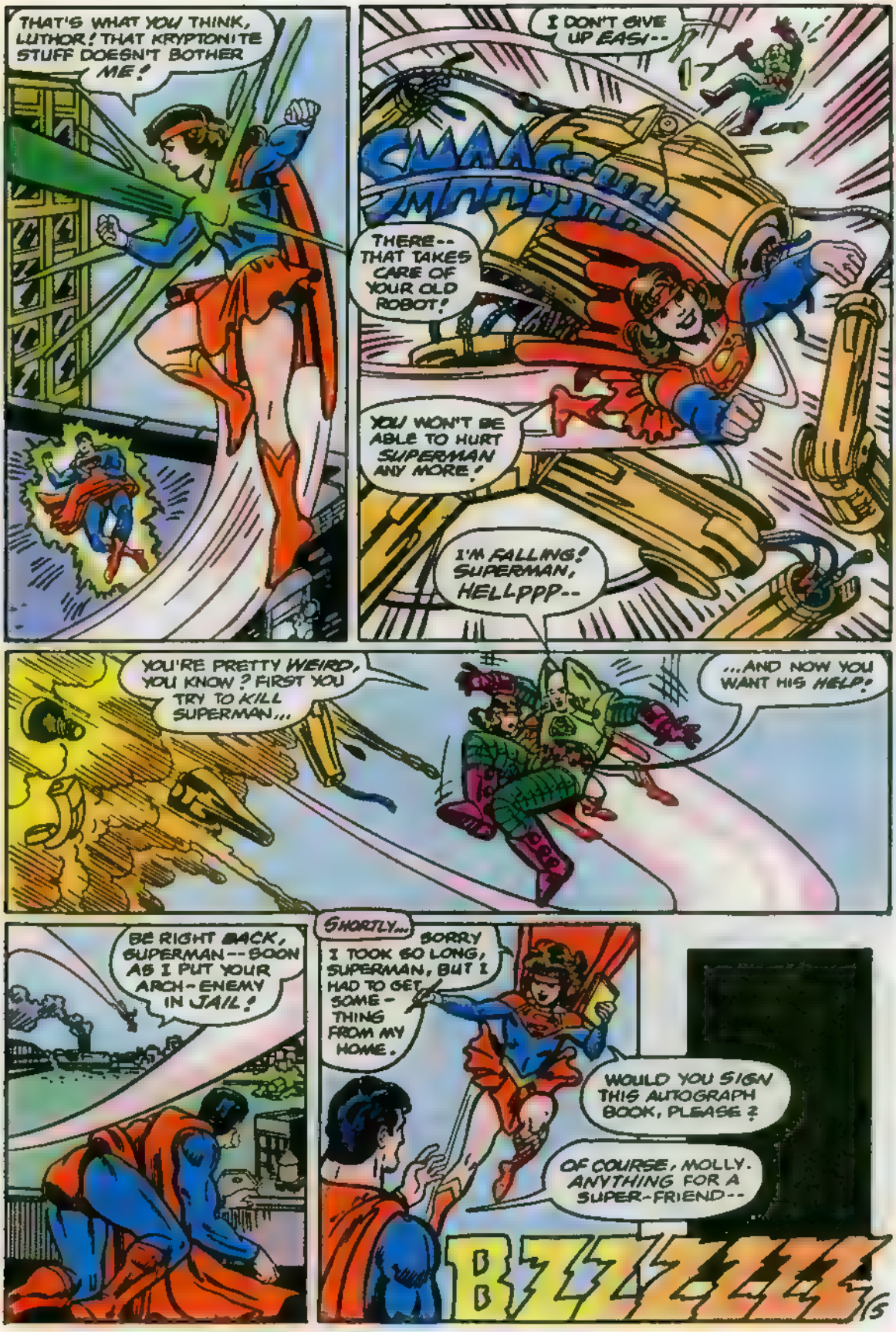
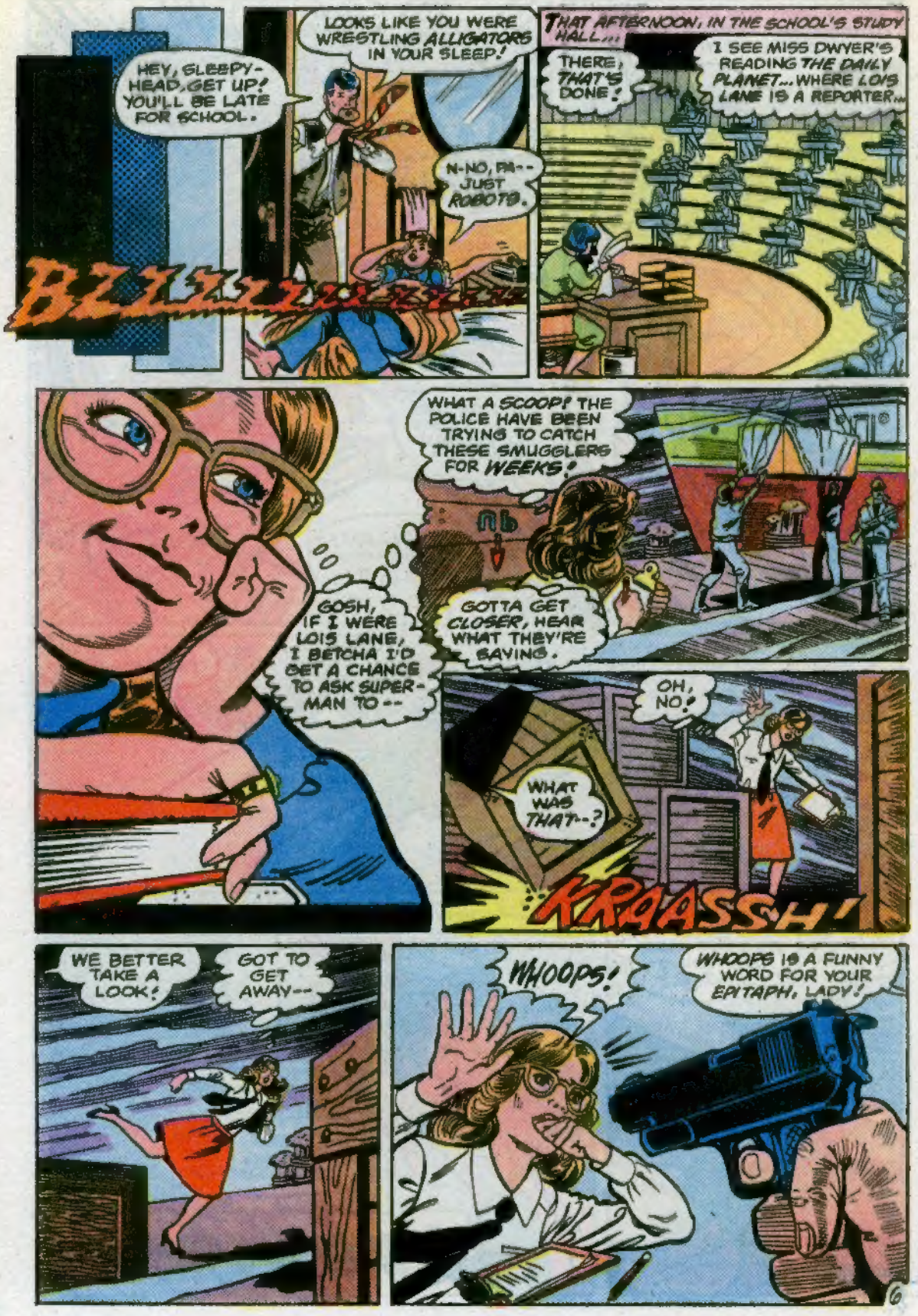
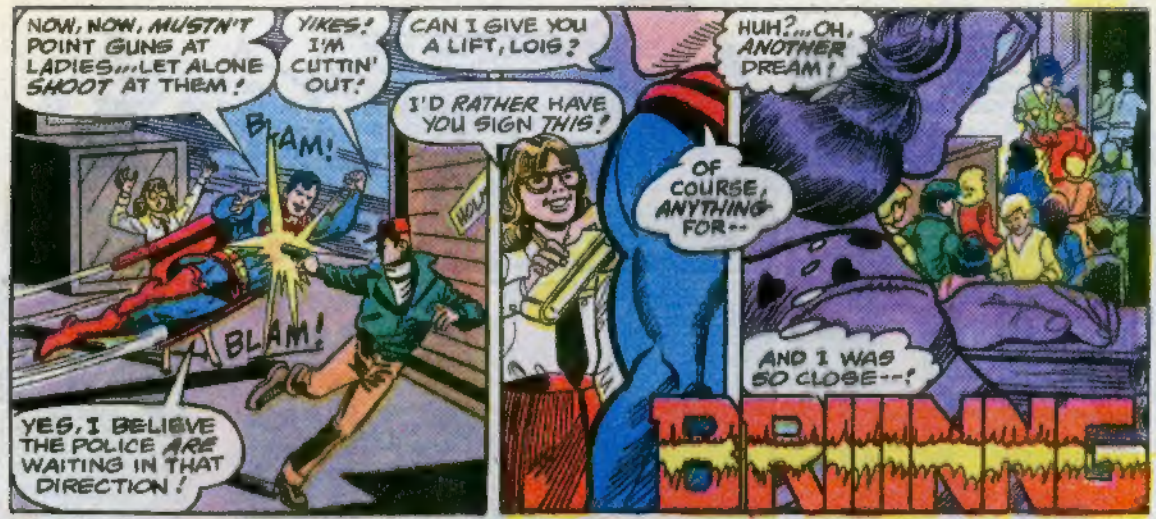
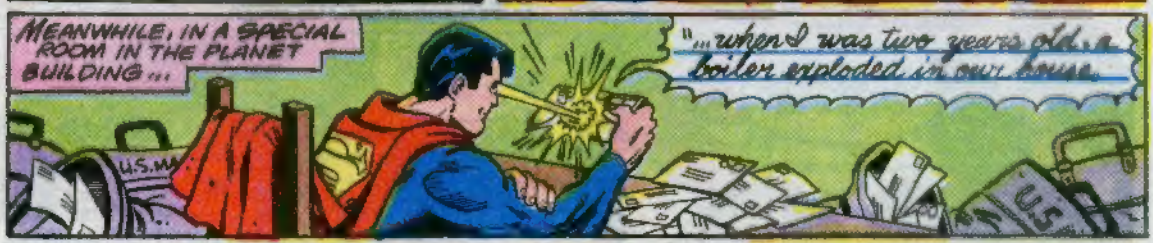
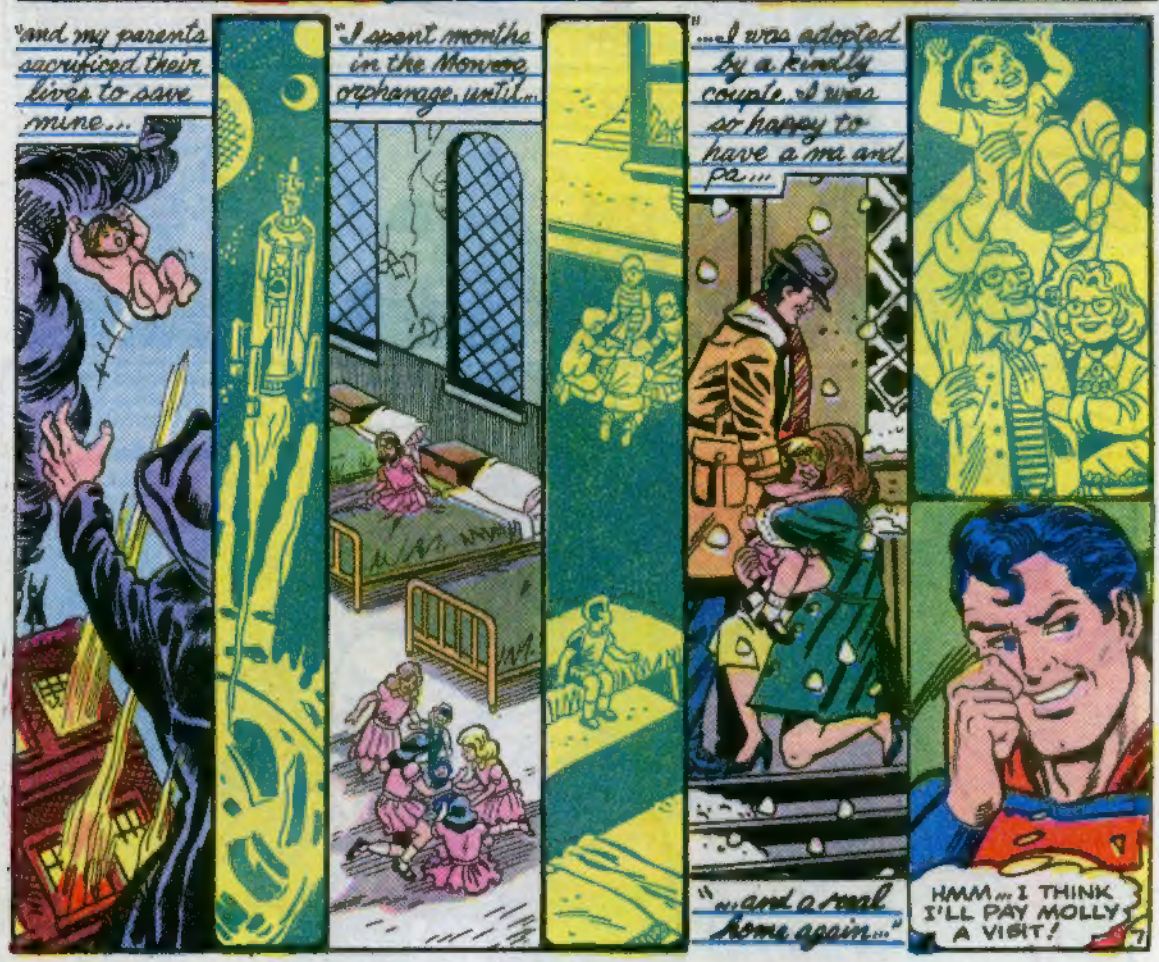
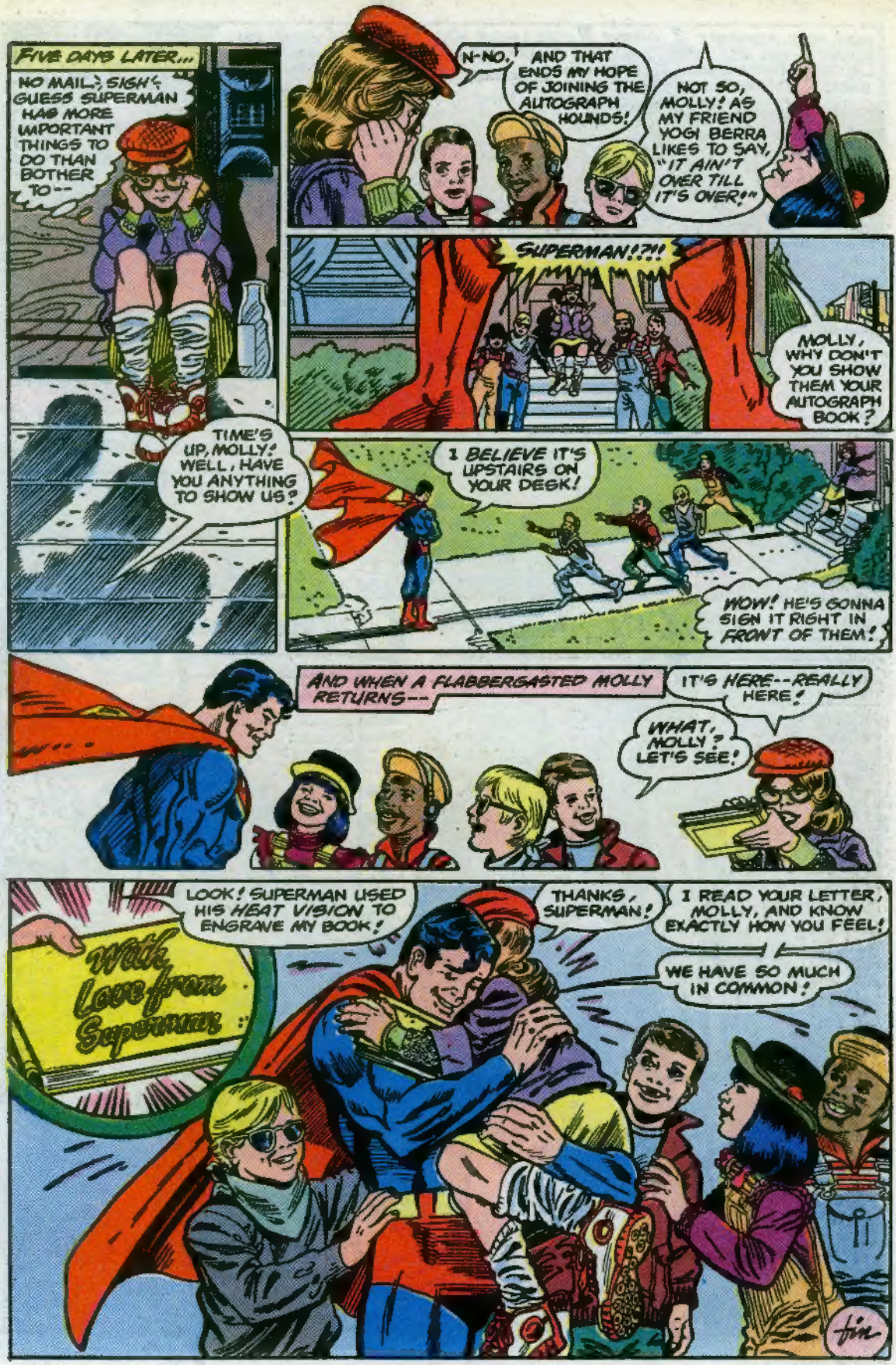

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, LUTHOR! THAT KRYPTONITE STUFF DOESN'T BOTHER ME!
I DON'T GIVE UP EASY--
CRAAAASH
THERE-- THAT TAKES CARE OF YOUR OLD ROBOT!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HURT SUPERMAN ANY MORE!
I'M FALLING! SUPERMAN, HELLPPP--
YOU'RE PRETTY WEIRD, YOU KNOW? FIRST YOU TRY TO KILL SUPERMAN...
...AND NOW YOU WANT HIS HELP!
BE RIGHT BACK, SUPERMAN-- SOON AS I PUT YOUR ARCH-ENEMY IN JAIL!
SHORTLY...
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG, SUPERMAN, BUT I HAD TO GET SOME-THING FROM MY HOME.
WOULD YOU SIGN THIS AUTOGRAPH BOOK, PLEASE?
OF COURSE, MOLLY. ANYTHING FOR A SUPER-FRIEND--
BZZZZZZ


HEY, SLEEPY-HEAD, GET UP! YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL.
LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE WRESTLING ALLIGATORS IN YOUR SLEEP!
N-NO, PA-- JUST ROBOTS.
BZZZ


NOW, NOW, MUSTN'T POINT GUNS AT LADIES...LET ALONE SHOOT AT THEM!
YIKES! I'M CUTTIN' OUT!
CAN I GIVE YOU A LIFT, LOIS?
I'D RATHER HAVE YOU SIGN THIS!
HUH?...OH, ANOTHER DREAM!
OF COURSE, ANYTHING FOR--
AND I WAS SO CLOSE--!
BLAM!
BLAM!
YES, I BELIEVE THE POLICE ARE WAITING IN THAT DIRECTION!
DRIVING


MEANWHILE, IN A SPECIAL ROOM IN THE PLANET BUILDING...
"...when I was two years old, a boiler exploded in our house...


"and my parents sacrificed their lives to save mine...
"I spent months in the Monroe orphanage, until...
"...I was adopted by a kindly couple. I was so happy to have a ma and pa...
"...and a real home again..."
HMM... I THINK I'LL PAY MOLLY A VISIT!


FIVE DAYS LATER...
NO MAIL... SIGH... GUESS SUPERMAN HAS MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN BOTHER TO--
N-NO.
AND THAT ENDS MY HOPE OF JOINING THE AUTOGRAPH HOUNDS!
NOT SO, MOLLY! AS MY FRIEND YOGI BERRA LIKES TO SAY, "IT AIN'T OVER TILL IT'S OVER!"
SUPERMAN!?!!
MOLLY, WHY DON'T YOU SHOW THEM YOUR AUTOGRAPH BOOK?
TIME'S UP, MOLLY! WELL, HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SHOW US?
I BELIEVE IT'S UPSTAIRS ON YOUR DESK!
WOW! HE'S GONNA SIGN IT RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM!
AND WHEN A FLABBERGASTED MOLLY RETURNS--
IT'S HERE--REALLY HERE!
WHAT, MOLLY? LET'S SEE!
LOOK! SUPERMAN USED HIS HEAT VISION TO ENGRAVE MY BOOK!
With Love from Superman
THANKS, SUPERMAN!
I READ YOUR LETTER, MOLLY, AND KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL!
WE HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON!
tim

MEANWHILE...

1985 promises to be our best year yet. I say that with some confidence because I have worked for the last year with DC's editorial staff to line up the best mini-series, annuals, maxi-series, and specials that we could possibly do. It's our 50th anniversary and that means a lot to us! For the next 12 months you are going to watch us salute the best of our past and prepare for the next 50 years.

In coming months you will be treated to revivals of mainline characters such as Hawkman (starting next month), Aquaman, Zatanna, and the Red Tornado in their own exciting mini-series. We'll have another **SWORD OF THE ATOM SPECIAL** and bring you a **LEGION OF SUBSTITUTE HEROES SPECIAL** and a **GREEN ARROW SPECIAL.** Gil Kane and Jan Strnad have a maxi-series in the offing, and Doug Moench has two very special projects planned for this year.

But I didn't come here to talk about those. No, today I'm here to talk about what I consider to be the centerpieces of our anniversary celebration: **CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS** and **WHO'S WHO: THE DEFINITIVE DIRECTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE.** These have both been in the planning stages for nearly four years and they are finally ready to be unleashed upon the public.

It all started when Marv Wolfman and Len Wein suggested we do a history of the DC Universe maxi-series to help straighten out some of the confusing continuity that has cropped up—as is expected from any creative company in business for 50 years. This project required a great deal of research and we brought in Ian Peter Sanderson to read just about every comic we have ever published. Bleary-eyed, Peter filled two gigantic notebooks with notes about our characters. From this, Len and Marv thought it would be easy to craft the maxi-series and have it all make sense.

Well, it took a little more time than they anticipated, so we held the entire project off until this year so it would coincide with this celebration. As they got more enthusiastic about the story, I got caught up in the creative flow and encouraged them to get even more daring. From that grew what George Pérez named **CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS.** Marv created an enigmatic character, The Monitor, to be the catalyst, and since last year (actually longer, since he first appeared back in **TEEN TITANS ANNUAL** #2) this mysterious figure has popped up in almost all of our books.

Meanwhile, the storyline grew and grew and we knew this was becoming something too big for just one series. Thus, we created the **WHO'S WHO,** which will act as the companion piece for this series. The first issue of the **WHO'S WHO** came out last month and will continue for 24 months until every single one of our super-powered heroes and villains is catalogued.

Using Peter's research, newly hired Bob Greenberger prepared the notes and consulted with Len and Marv as they tackled the overwhelming task before them. After years in the making, both series are here and I am very proud of the finished results.

Enough history, let me tell you about these series. First off, the **CRISIS,** written by Marv and pencilled by George, is a major storyline that will affect each and every one of our DC titles. It's a story about the parallel worlds concept—the one Julie Schwartz created in 1963 with his famous story "The Flash of Two Worlds"—and therefore it will bring into play everyone from the Golden-Age Superman to the Legion of Super-Heroes. Characters unseen in years will be seen once more and lots of confusing matters will be cleared up.

In the first issue alone we watch a familiar world fade from existence and see the Monitor for the first time. We'll be treated to the teaming of 15 very unlikely characters, plus the introduction of 3 new people, each of whom will play a major role in the story.

It's 12 issues, some of which will be double-sized, and the first one, now on sale, is a 32-page story with no ads and only 75¢ (our first anniversary present to you).

As the ads say, worlds will live, worlds will die, and the DC Universe will never be the same.

As I have reported in this space, we have been holding frequent meetings over the last year with the complete editorial staff to refine our ideas and get input from everyone who will be concerned with these series. The meetings have continued and at times we brought in people from our marketing and business departments to get immediate approval of proposed changes. This is a group effort and one I am very proud to take part in.

Let me take a moment to discuss change. Many people, usually ardent fans of a series, resist change because they fear it will ruin what they have come to love. Yes, this can happen, but since every one of our writers and editors is working with Len, Marv, and me on the projects, we're making sure that the changes will be positive ones.

And they will be permanent ones.

While some characters will die or retire, others will come into the spotlight for the first time. People's allegiances will alter, as will powers and costumes. This isn't change for the sake of change but the next step in the evolutionary process. And it's a step designed to make us viable for the next 50 years—and beyond.

Now, of course, you can't tell the players in a game this huge without a scorecard. And that's the **WHO'S WHO.** Primarily written and edited by Len, each issue will be 32 pages without ads, featuring all-new artwork by the biggest names in the entire comics industry, and all the facts you need to know about who these people are, where they came from, and what they can do is inside. The art is designed to show you the characters in and out of costume and using their unique abilities.

When finished, the 24-issue series will stand as our Bible. Budding artists can refer to this as a guide to what our characters look like, while new-talent writers will know the basics about why these people do the things they do. Len is saving the last few issues for updates so that changes occurring in the **CRISIS** will be reflected almost immediately.

Confidentially, I suspect Len, Marv, George, Bob, and maybe even me, since I'm inking the **CRISIS,** will all be ready for a padded room long before these series conclude.

You won't want to miss either of these series because, if you do, you'll miss out on the most exciting thing to happen to DC Comics since Superman first saw print. Quite a boast, but believe me, when this year is over, it will be a whole new ballgame and a game we're really excited about.

Join us and don't miss a thing!

Thank You and Good Afternoon.

Dick

☐ **Action Comics 566:** Superman teams with Captain Strong!

☐ **Detective Comics 549:** The Calendar Man returns with art by Pat Broderick!

☐ **Jonah Hex 90:** Gray Morrow joins the book as regular artist!

☐ **Tales of the Legion of Super-Heroes 322:** Brainiac 5 discovers the mystery behind "Exile"!

☐ **World's Finest 314:** Gotham Bridge may be falling down before help can arrive!

☐ **All-Star Squadron 44:** Baron Blitzkrieg attacks in America!

☐ **Arion 30:** A four-parter begins as the magic returns with Jan Duursema!

☐ **Spanner's Galaxy 5:** Spanner and Gadg are caught in a chain of murders!

☐ **Sun Devils 10:** The final trilogy begins!

☐ **America vs. the Justice Society 4:** The secret behind Batman's diary!

☐ **V 3:** Has Julie fallen for a scientist determined to make peace with the Visitors?